



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

**Mayor Patrice Granatosky, Councilor David Atwater, Councilor Conrad F. Heede, Councilor Rachael Franco, Councilor Rich Moravsik, Councilor Lian Obrey, Councilor Juliette Parker, Councilor Rita Schmidt, and Councilor Joe Zeppieri**

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

#### REGULAR MEETING

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

*Mayor Granatosky called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.*

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairperson Granatosky, Councilor Atwater, Councilor Franco, Councilor Heede, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Parker, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Zeppieri  
Members Absent: Councilor Obrey

*Also present were Town Manager John Burt and Assistant to the Town Manager Nicki Bresnayan.*

#### 3. Calendar and Communications

*Councilors noted meetings that they had attended. Mayor Granatosky thanked Director of Public Works Gary Schneider for resolving a snow removal issue in Mystic.*

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

##### 2018-0028 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

##### RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting of January 23, 2018 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Parker, to adopt.

Mayor Granatosky asked that the minutes reflect on page 3 that the Council agreed to continue the meeting past 10:00 p.m. in accordance with the Town Council Rules.

The motion carried unanimously

#### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*None.*

#### 6. NEW BUSINESS

##### 2017-0132 Status of Groton 2020 School Construction Project

##### Discussed

*Rick Norris and Jack Butkus from Arcadis were present to address the Council. Mr. Norris reviewed a PowerPoint presentation providing an update on the Groton 2020 School Construction Project including project financing projections, construction schedule, design concept for the middle school, and next steps. Mr. Norris and Mr. Butkus responded to questions from Councilors.*

##### 2018-0025 Supplemental Appropriation for Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction Project

##### Recommended for a Resolution

*Director of Public Works Gary Schneider explained that the Crystal Lake Road reconstruction project is currently in a winter shutdown phase and will resume in the spring. The State of*

*Connecticut is doing construction administration for the project. The Town previously made a 10% match payment based on an estimated construction budget. An additional demand payment from the State on the final construction cost estimate is \$116,121. Funds will come from the Capital Reserve fund balance.*

*The consensus of the Committee was to recommend this item for a resolution.*

**2017-0307 Capital Improvement Project Updates - Quarterly Report**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager John Burt noted that this is the first quarterly report on Capital Improvement Program projects as requested by the Council. If Councilors have any questions or would like additional information, more detailed presentations can be made by the departments. Councilors will forward any questions to the Town Manager.*

**2018-0029 Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Various Ordinances to Increase Fines**

**Not Discussed**

**2018-0043 Department of Education Youth and Family Services Funding**

**Discussed**

*Questions on this grant and #2018-0044 Department of Education Youth Services Enhancement Grant were posed by Councilor Zeppieri before the meeting and answered by Director of Human Services Marge Fondulas. Town Manager Burt described the purpose of the grant.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Parker, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

*Town Manager Burt reviewed highlights from the information provided by Ms. Fondulas. Board of Education Chairman Kim Shepardson Watson offered her understanding of the Juvenile Review Board and programs like the Groton Sailing Program. Mayor Granatosky asked that Ms. Fondulas be present at the Town Council meeting to answer remaining questions regarding success measures for the various programs.*

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 7 - Chairperson Granatosky, Councilor Atwater, Councilor Franco, Councilor Heede, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Parker and Councilor Schmidt  
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Zeppieri

**2018-0044 Department of Education Youth Services Enhancement Grant**

**A motion was made by Councilor Parker, seconded by Councilor Heede, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 7 - Chairperson Granatosky, Councilor Atwater, Councilor Franco, Councilor Heede, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Parker and Councilor Schmidt  
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Zeppieri

**2018-0045 Personnel and Appointments Committee 2018 Regular Meeting Schedule**

**A motion was made by Councilor Franco, seconded by Councilor Heede, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

*Councilor Heede noted that the purpose of changing the schedule is to move the Personnel and Appointments Committee meetings closer to the Town Council meetings.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

*The Committee of the Whole recessed at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened at 7:33 p.m.*

**2017-0226 Superintendent of Groton Public Schools - Update (Standing Referral)**

**Discussed**

*Mayor Granatosky welcomed Dr. Graner, Kim Shepardson Watson, Board of Education members*

and staff from Groton Public Schools. Dr. Graner distributed a packet of information answering questions from a meeting held the previous night and providing a summary of the Board of Education's draft FY19 Proposed Budget, which is projecting an overall 2.6% increase. The projected salary increase is 1.4% and benefits increase is 18.3%. Dr. Graner reviewed impacts in other accounts. The Board continues to work on cutting the budget and thinks the final request will reflect a 2.3% increase.

Dr. Graner reviewed budget allocations for the school district, which are depicted in a pie chart in the information packet. The Board's actuarial value of their OPEB is -\$668,519, which the Board must pay and is included in the budget. Discussions are taking place regarding changing the level for Stop Loss Insurance. Dr. Graner also reviewed an analysis of the FY18 budget. He noted that if significant budget cuts are required, closing a school is not an option. In the fall of 2020, there will be significant consolidation of staff. Discussion followed on the schools' diversity designation, racial imbalance issues, and the role of intra-district magnet schools. Dr. Graner responded to questions from Councilors.

Mayor Granatosky suggested that after the budget the Town Council and Board of Education work on shared services for next year.

Ms. Watson asked for some input from the Council on what they would like to see for the Board of Education budget. She also noted that Board members feel the Board of Education/Town Council/RTM Liaison Committee is an important group. Board member Guilini addressed the value of Groton's Juvenile Review Board and Sailing Program.

**7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List**

*None.*

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

*None.*

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Councilor Atwater, seconded by Councilor Parker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*